Amendment of CAT Act

275. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Central Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985 during the Monsoon Session of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any alternative machinery is being evolved for redressal of the grievances of Government employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) A proposal to amend the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 has been under consideration to incorporate a facilitating provision for abolition of any Administrative Tribunal if and when it is deemed necessary by the Government to do so and also to bring it in line with the pronouncements of Supreme Court of India relating to appellate jurisdiction over Administrative Tribunals. The Bill for amendment of the said Act will be introduced in the Parliament as and when Government takes a final decision.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal for abolition of the Central Administrative Tribunal at present. As regard State Administrative Tribunals, the proposed amendment requires the State Government to propose an alternate forum in case they wish to abolish a State Administrative Tribunal.

Restoration of commuted pension after 12 years

276. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended in unequivocal terms that the commuted portion of the

pension of the retired Government servants be restored after 12 years instead of 15 years as at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that similar recommendation was also made by the Supreme Court in a judgement relating to the case of pensioners;

(c) if so, whether Government would take a fresh look into the demand which has also been repeatedly put forward by the Pensioners' Associations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The recommendation made by the Fifth Central Pay Commission and the demand by a number of Pensioners' Associations for restoration of commuted portion of pension after 12 years instead of the present 15 years was examined by the Government. However, taking into account various factors including financial implications, the Government decided not to accept the reduction in the period of restoration of commuted portion of pension from 15 years to 12 years.

Funds to Gujarat under Gokul Gram Yojana

277. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated by Government to Gujarat during the last two years for Gokul Gram Yojana;

(b) the funds utilised, year-wise;

(c) the number of villages covered during the said period; and

(d) the additional funds proposed to the allocated for 2002-2003 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The approved outlay,